



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, September 1, 2011**

**Granite Reef Senior Center, Room 8  
1700 N. Granite Reef Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257**

**APPROVED SUMMARIZED MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Howard Myers, Chairman  
James Heitel, Vice Chairman (arrived 5:14 p.m.)  
Fred Klein, Commissioner  
Linda Whitehead, Commissioner  
Rand Hubbell, Commissioner  
Deke Joralmon, Commissioner  
Melinda Gulick, Commissioner (arrived 5:05 p.m.)  
Carla, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** BJ Heggli, Commissioner  
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Bill Murphy  
Kroy Ekblaw  
Claire Miller  
Robbin Schweitzer  
Scott Hamilton

**GUESTS:** Mike Nolan  
David Hay  
Con Englehorn

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of August 11, 2011

Commissioner Whitehead requested that the following statement be added to item 5: "Commissioner Whitehead commented that the minutes of the May 11 meeting of the DDC Phase III Feasibility Committee incorrectly state that the Phase III Work Program was approved by the MSPC. The Preserve Commission did not approve the Phase III Program as submitted because that commission had additional concerns it wanted the Phase III Committee to be directed to address. She asked that the Phase III Committee be given copies of the minutes of the September 29, 2010 joint meeting of the MSPC and TDC and of the November 4, 2010 meeting of the MSPC so committee members will have a better understanding of the concerns the Preserve Commission felt needed to be addressed."

**COMMISSIONER HUBBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2011 AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JORALMON, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF EIGHT (8) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS HEGGLI AND WHEELER WERE ABSENT.**

**5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE**

Mr. Nolan mentioned that a donation was received for the purpose of replacing the panoramic sign of the mountains at the Bajada Trail, which should be in place by the first week of October. He talked about ongoing activities relating to the Preserve including the Trailside Naturalist Program; the Resource Program animal studies; and a project mapping the various natural community designations in the Arizona Uplands of the Sonoran Desert, which will provide necessary information to design effective management plans to protect plants and animals. He distributed a copy of the recently published activity guide for October through December.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to make comments.

**6. TASKS TO COMPLETE THE PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Mr. Murphy reviewed the staff report outlining tasks related to the management of the City of Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve, many of which have been completed since their identification in November of 2009.

Discussion ensued regarding the statement in the report where staff disagreed with the MSPC's recommendation that no special use permits be granted to competitive events in

the Preserve. Staff preference would be to handle special use permit requests on a case-by-case basis. Chairman Myers offered a statement to be included with the staff report outlining reasons for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission's recommendation against allowing competitive events within the Preserve boundaries.

**COMMISSIONER CARLA MOVED TO FORWARD THE RECOMMENDATION AND TO FORWARD THE STAFF COMMENTS RELATING TO THE COMPETITIVE EVENTS USE PERMITS TOGETHER WITH THE STATEMENT OFFERED BY CHAIRMAN MYERS AS A SEPARATE ITEM FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION.**

Chair Myers expressed concern that forwarding two separate items would cause confusion.

**COMMISSIONER CARLA WITHDREW HER MOTION.**

**COMMISSIONER GULICK MOVED TO FORWARD A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL OF ITEMS RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY OF SCOTTSDALE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE, INCLUDING: CONCEPTUAL PRESERVE TRAILS PLAN, PRESERVE ACCESS AREAS REPORT, TRAIL NAMING PROCEDURE, GUIDELINES FOR NAMING PRESERVE FEATURES (MAN-MADE), COMMERCIAL USE GUIDELINES, GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL USES, RESEARCH GUIDELINES, INVASIVE WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN, ROCK CLIMBING GUIDELINES, CONCEPTUAL ROCK CLIMBING PLAN, AND THE SPECIAL GUIDELINES OFFERED BY CHAIR MYERS RELATING TO COMPETITIVE EVENTS, INCLUDING A NOTATION THAT THE ISSUE OF PROHIBITING COMPETITIVE EVENTS IS A PHILOSOPHY RELATED TO THE IDEALS OF THE PRESERVE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JORALMON, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF EIGHT (8) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS HEGGLI AND WHEELER WERE ABSENT.**

## **7. COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

- Land Resources Task Force (Development of Preserve Options Report)

Commissioners discussed the possible options that might become available to fund a survey, noting that City Council rejected the recent survey proposal that was hoped to be piggybacked upon.

Mr. Ekblaw noted that the report was for City Council consideration as future steps, not for Council action. He suggested a few minor amendments be made to the estimated dollar amounts included in the report and specifically on the chart as well as some grammatical amendments.

**COMMISSIONER JORALMON MOVED TO FORWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVE OPTIONS REPORT TO COUNCIL WITH AMENDMENTS THAT WOULD INCLUDE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE COST ESTIMATIONS AND A DISCLAIMER STATING THAT NEW INFORMATION HAS BEEN DEVELOPED THAT SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ORIGINAL REPORT. COMMISSIONER KLEIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Mr. Ekblaw will work with the Land Resources Task Force members on edits which will be shared with the Commission members prior to the report being forwarded to Council.

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF EIGHT (8) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS HEGGLI AND WHEELER WERE ABSENT.**

**8. NORTH AREA PLAN, ACCESS/TRAIL/MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Hamilton reviewed the plan being put together to address planning issues in the Northern Area, noting the primary purpose of the plan will be to refine the location of trails and public access points, to establish goals and objectives for managing trails and access areas, prioritization, and ensure that all activities are conducted within the purpose and management objectives of the Preserve as defined in the Ordinance. He explained why it was necessary to update the plan and discussed steps involved in the planning and implementation process.

Ms. Miller reviewed management activities currently ongoing in the Northern Area of the Preserve.

Discussion ensued regarding incorporating the previous trail plan and installation of signage marking the boundary areas.

**9. BOND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE TRAILHEADS**

Mr. Ekblaw explained that the recommended approach for bonds for future trailheads was to package the projects in smaller increments so the projects can be completed in a shorter period of time. Three trailheads have been identified for recommendation to the Bond Task Force that were in the Master Plan and have not been scheduled as improvements.

**COMMISSIONER JORALMON MOVED THAT THE PRESERVE COMMISSION SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE BOND TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS AS FUTURE BOND PROJECTS: FRAESFIELD TRAILHEAD AND ASSOCIATED TRAILS AS PRIORITY 1 OR 2 (2012-2015); GRANITE MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD AND ASSOCIATED TRAILS AS PRIORITY 1 OR 2 (2012-2015); AND PIMA/DYNAMITE TRAILHEAD AND ASSOCIATED TRAILS AS PRIORITY 3 (2018). SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBELL, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF EIGHT (8) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS HEGGLI AND WHEELER WERE ABSENT.**

**10. STAFF REPORTS**

- **Sunrise Parking Maintenance**

Mr. Hamilton noted that due to issues with erosion the Sunrise parking area will be closed Tuesday, September 6 through Thursday, September 15 for repairs.

- **North Area Update**

**Tom's Thumb Update**

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Mr. Hamilton announced that Redden Construction was selected during the bidding process and the contract will be going to City Council for approval on September 13. Assuming City Council approves the contract; construction should begin in late September or early October with completion anticipated in June 2012.

### **SLUP Status**

Mr. Ekblaw explained that the State has raised some questions relating to the special land use permit (SLUP) boundaries that have yet to be addressed. He will report to the Commission on the outcome of the City Council consideration, which is expected to be scheduled in November.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to comment.

- **Financial Update (handout)**

Mr. Ekblaw said that the financial update would be sent out to the Commission upon completion.

- **Desert Discovery Center Phase III Feasibility Committee**

Mr. Ekblaw provided an update on the DDC Phase III Feasibility Committee discussions, noting that the Committee is beginning discussions on more detailed questions of revenues and operations. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14.

Commissioners expressed concern about the Committee's perception of the MSPC recommendation on Phase II and the perception of the public that the project is being downsized.

- **APS**

Staff members briefly mentioned activities that are being coordinated with APS, including cactus salvage, signage, and permanent access areas.

- **City Council Meeting 9/13/11**

Mr. Murphy noted that interviews and appointment for the open Commissioner position and action on the Ordinance pertaining to membership will be held on September 13. It is anticipated that the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission membership will be changed from 11 to 7, which will be enacted 30 days after the decision.

- **Preserve History**

Mr. Murphy said that the information that has been gathered and outlined and will be linked to interviews and archived at the library. Because of operating budget decreases, continued efforts on the project are temporarily on hold.

## **11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

In response to a question by Commissioner Whitehead, Mr. Murphy confirmed that the Mayor and Council Breakfast is scheduled for October 13 at the Gateway at 8:30 a.m. Commission Members will receive a formal invitation.

Commissioner Klein noted an interest in having parking established at the gate at 136<sup>th</sup> Street and Lone Mountain as soon as possible to mitigate existing and prevent future damage to the area.

Commissioner Joralmon announced that due to an employment situation he will be moving to Ohio; however, he is currently maintaining his Scottsdale residency requirement and will remain available telephonically as needed to participate with the Commission for at least the next month.

## **12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR OCTOBER 2011**

- **North Area Transportation Plan - October/November**
- **Update on Land Acquisition 2011 & 2012**
- **Polling Update**
- **Brown's Ranch - 30% Design**

Mr. Murphy noted that Transportation Director Dave Meinhart will be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the North Area Transportation Plan. The MOU for the Conservancy will be agendaized for October if it is completed and scheduled for City Council.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.